

ROCKVILLE REPORTS

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A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville



Each year, the City of Rockville publishes a special insert that highlights the 25 caregiver agencies that provide assistance to the community and that the City supports financially. The insert offers information about each agency, highlighting the services and programs they offer and specific areas that need to be met this holiday season. In the insert, you will find phone numbers and Web sites if you need help, or if you would like to make a donation or volunteer. If you have questions about any of the information, call the City's Community Services Division at 240-314-8310. (Above) Each year Rockville hosts a salute to nonprofits to highlight caregiver agencies serving the City.

Rockville Makes Helping Residents a Priority

Each year the number of families who need help grows in Rockville. Whether that need is help through a major financial crisis or a one-time boost for a prescription, the City works to ensure all residents' needs are met.

Rockville works in many ways to help – through the Holiday Drive, emergency assistance program and services for youth and families.

The Holiday Drive has been helping families in need for more than 30 years, by distributing food and toys.

The drive facilitates community giving for the Thanksgiving and December holidays, and allows people to donate time and contribute as a volunteer, or through a donation of food, toys or money.

The Rockville Emergency Assistance Program operates year-round, working with families who are facing financial crisis. Through the program, families receive referrals for other assistance programs, including food and clothing, counseling on money management, housing and employment.

And through the Youth and Families Program, Rockville

youngsters benefit from youth development programs and counseling. Families can attend parent education workshops or classes if they have been referred through the court system.

"The goal of our Community Services Division is to link Rockville residents with services they need in the community and ensure that they have the resources to remain self-sufficient and feeling a real sense of community," said Mary Lou Jacobs, Rockville's community services manager.

Rockville administers a grant program that grows each year. This past year, it gave to 25 nonprofit agencies that assist Rockville residents.

The City gives annually to these programs, from those that help with food and clothing needs to those that provide shelter to those that provide English literacy instruction.

"Giving money to help all our children, adults and families in need is about more than just lending a helping hand," said Mayor Susan R. Hoffmann. "It's about reinforcing the sense of community that exists in all of our residents in all of our neighborhoods." **RR**

Rockville's 2010 Budget Work Begins with Previews

Each of Rockville's nine department directors recently gave the Mayor and Council a preview of priorities that will help to build the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

The department directors explained their fiscal focus based on the Mayor and Council's seven vision priorities that are outlined for 2008-2010.

While the Mayor and Council receive a budget preview every November, they had asked to be more involved in the process from the beginning, which is why the department directors gave individual presentations. The nine departments in the City are the Office of the City Manager, Office of the Mayor and Council (includes the City Clerk's Office), Human Resources, Finance,

Information and Technology, Recreation and Parks, Public Works, Community Planning and Development Services, and Police.

"This preview seeks the Mayor and Council's guidance with regard to the development of the FY 2010 operating and capital budget," said Stacey Tate, budget officer for the City. "This is really the department directors saying, 'We know what your vision is; this is how we're attempting to accomplish it.'"

Each department is evaluating its cost drivers and looking at ways to be more cost effective with the overall goal of achieving cost savings in 2010 and beyond.

The adopted Fiscal Year 2009

INSIDE

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Study group also looks at second entrance
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City ready for possible storms
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First center on City's west side

operating budget is \$102.7 million and the Capital Improvements Program budget totals \$73.6 million.

To learn more about the current budget and the budget process, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/government/budget/index.html. **RR**

Mayor and Council Vision Priorities Help Build the Budget

- **Distinct Neighborhoods, One City:** Individual neighborhoods make up a unified city, and it is important to recognize and maintain them.
- **A Cultural Destination:** Enhance the programs, service and activities that will build on Rockville's rich history, unique cultural presentations and dynamic shopping.
- **Green City:** Be a leader in environmentally sustainable development that protects and enhances the community's quality of life.
- **Quality Built Environment:** Work to ensure buildings conform to the highest environmental and design standards.
- **Exceptional City Services:** Provide a full complement of services that are high quality and well funded. City staff also has a strong customer service focus.
- **Economic Development and Sustainability:** Ensuring Rockville has a strong and diverse economy by maintaining its reputation as a desirable place to do business and working to have the business community engage in civic and community activities.
- **Community Engagement:** Give residents as many opportunities as possible to participate in the City government and have access to it.

Budget Timeline at a Glance

Feb. 23 Mayor and Council receive final preview
March 23 Presentation for proposed budget and introduction of ordinances and resolutions
March 30 Public hearing No. 1 – Constant Yield Tax Rate
April 13 Public hearing No. 2
April 27 Mayor and Council worksession No. 1
May 4 Mayor and Council worksession No. 2
May 18 Budget adoption



Come up to the Roof for a Winter Wonderland

Bring the family to The Rooftop and VisArts at Rockville for a Winter Wonderland from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Enjoy the season and be entertained by Sugarplum Fairies and Snow Kings and Queens, sip hot chocolate and eat holiday treats.

Children can paint gingerbread men, make holiday cards and participate in other holiday activities at VisArts. Enjoy festive music on The Rooftop and have a family photo taken with Santa Claus. Cost is \$5 per person. Proceeds benefit Community Ministries of Rockville. VisArts and the Rooftop deck are located at the Arts and Innovation building, 155 Gibbs St. For more information, e-mail info@rockvillerooftop.com or galleryassist@visartscenter.org. **RR**

December's Best of Rockville

7,14,21 Glenview Mansion Holiday Open Houses feature "Art, Music and Holiday Cheer," "Children's Activities, Art and Song" and "Sparkle, Jazz and Joy" three Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

6 Winter Book Sale hosted by the Friends of the Library, Rockville Chapter, features hundreds of books for sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Rockville Library.



6,7,13,14 Rockville Civic Ballet performs the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and 13, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 7 and 14. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

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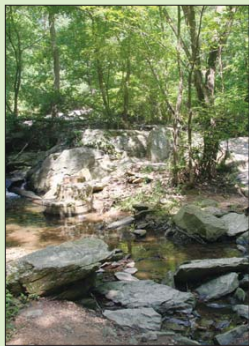
ROCKVILLE IS GOING GREEN

To learn more about Rockville's efforts toward building a sustainable City, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment

Trash-Free Streams Keep Drinking Water Healthy

Each fall, Rockville works with the Maryland Department of the Environment to make sure the City's streams are kept clean and the drinking water is protected.

As part of the Environmental Protection Agency National Pollution Discharge and Elimination Stormwater Program, outlined in the Clean Water Act, City environmental experts will be looking for "illicit discharges," which is the unlawful act of disposing, dumping or spilling of any substance other than stormwater into the



Rockville environmental officials work to keep City streams free of pollution.

storm drain. Illicit discharges can result in contaminated and untreated wastewater entering into the storm sewer system.

So to protect against this illegal dumping, City staff will walk all of the City streams. The goal is to walk all 34 miles of stream in the next three years to inspect the outfalls in the Rockville streams.

"Not only are these stream walks important because they are required, but they are also the first line of defense to identifying possible pollution to streams," said Amanda Rockler, watershed protection specialist. **RR**



Focus on CITY NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALKS

Keeping ice and snow off sidewalks and driveways is important for safety, but there are environmental consequences to using salt as a de-icer, releasing chloride and many other impurities into the surrounding area.

Chemicals such as these can make their way into streams and waterways, and that can harm aquatic life. These chemicals can also remain locked in the soil, threatening the plants

that grow in yards and gardens.

The environmental impact can be minimized when treating ice and snow. Follow these steps:

- Shovel early, shovel often.
- Apply salt sparingly.
- Buy early and check labels. Although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl₂) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cy-

nide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, rock salt), which does.

- Avoid kitty litter and ashes. While these products are environmentally friendly, they are only marginally effective at adding traction, and do not melt ice.

For more information on salt, snow and ice in the region visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/watersheds/de-icing.html. **RR**

Energy Saving Tips Save Money, Make Homes Comfortable in Winter

With winter just about a month away, the City of Rockville Environmental Division offers two ways to make residents' homes more comfortable and energy-efficient, and reduce monthly utility bills.

Weather-stripping Stops Drafts, Improves Heating

Applying caulk around poorly sealed window and door frames, and placing weather-stripping inside doors and windows will help reduce drafts, and will allow furnaces to function more efficiently.

Homeowners need to choose the correct type of caulk for weather-stripping application. That means finding a more durable material for the door threshold since it will need to withstand foot traffic, as well as routine opening and closing. Some tips to keep in mind when weather-stripping are:

- Apply weather-stripping

snugly against both surfaces – between the door and door jamb or window and window casing – it should compress slightly when the door or window is closed, but should not make it difficult to shut.

- Weather-strip the entire door jamb with one continuous strip along each side.
- When caulking around a door or window frame, make sure the surface is clean and dry before applying caulk.
- The best time to apply caulk is when the outside temperature is above 45 degrees F.
- Caulk at a 45-degree angle in one straight, continuous stream.

Programmable Thermostats

One of the easiest ways to save money on heating costs is to only pay for heating when it's needed. Installing a programmable thermostat is fairly simple, and allows homeowners to "set it and forget it."

The thermostat can be set to turn off at night when you

are in bed, and to maintain a lower temperature during the day if the house is empty. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average homeowner can save \$180 per year by properly using a programmable thermostat.

It is important to select a programmable thermostat that is compatible with the home's heating system, and that allows flexibility to set it to meet the family's schedule.

When replacing an existing manual thermostat, the job often does not require a professional. If the home's thermostat has a mercury switch, use caution to avoid breaking the switch. Once removed, call Rockville's Refuse Division at 240-314-8568 to arrange for a free household hazardous waste pick-up.

Once connected, many thermostats are pre-programmed. Use those settings to determine whether they are efficient for the home before modifying the programming. **RR**

Keep Rockville's Drinking Water Safe

Examples of Illicit Discharges include:

- Littering
- Improper floor drain connections to the storm sewer system
- Illegal dumping of paint
- Illegal dumping of oil
- Illegal dumping of debris (including grass and leaves)
- Illegal dumping of automobile fluids or other waste products from automobiles
- Sediment eroding into a storm drain or stream
- Failing septic systems

How can you help?

- Keep pollutants out of stormwater drains.
- Keep storm drains clear of debris, dirt or other waste.
- Practice pollution prevention: www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/watersheds/pollution.html.
- Properly apply fertilizers and pesticides to your lawn and garden.
- Always properly dispose of the waste fluids and parts from any automobile work.
- Whenever possible, use a commercial car wash. They properly dispose of the soapy water rather than letting it run into the storm drain.
- Before draining your pool for the season, let the pool water stand for five days without adding chlorine. This allows the chlorine to dissipate so it will not harm aquatic life in streams. When draining the pool, let the water run over your lawn. Do not place the hose directly in front of the storm drain inlet.
- Use care when applying de-icers to your steps, driveways and sidewalks.
- Report pollution or illegal dumping. Call the Pollution Hotline to report pollution or illegal dumping: 240-314-8343. For more information call the Environmental Management Division at 240-314-8870.

Tips for Sustainable Holidays

1. Purchase locally grown, seasonal produce. Local produce include items such as apples, potatoes, turnips, beets, rutabaga, parsnips, pumpkins, squash, collard greens, kale and brussels sprouts. Local products require less gasoline to ship to market.
2. Buy produce in bulk bins and avoid excess packaging. It will cut down on the amount of waste you have to throw away.
3. Buy organic foods, such as turkeys and beef, as well as produce, including apples, celery and many of the traditional holiday dinner trimmings.
4. Reuse last year's decorations in a new way or make new ones using recycled materials or items from your back yard (leaves, rocks, twigs, etc).
5. Serve tap water instead of bottled water. Keep the number of bottles that need to be recycled to a minimum.
6. Serve corked wine not plastic stopper wine. Cork extraction usually practices environmentally-friendly harvesting methods, and cork production provides a sustainable livelihood for people in many parts of the world.
7. Do not prepare more food than you can eat. Find new ways to serve leftovers.
8. Donate your turkey fat. Fat can be recycled into bio-fuel. Check to see what companies in your community are doing. The Maryland Biodiesel Plant is the first facility in Maryland and one of only 35 nationwide to provide biodiesel from soybeans <http://www.mdbiodiesel.com/>.
9. Send e-greetings instead of sending cards through the mail. If you must mail them, try to keep your card list to a minimum. Send postcards instead of envelopes to save paper or buy holiday cards made from recycled paper.
10. Use holiday lights in moderation. If you are buying new lights, buy LED lights. They use one-tenth as much energy as conventional holiday lights and last much longer.

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the
City Government at Work

Zoning Ordinance Nears Completion

The Mayor and Council are expected to complete work in December on the comprehensive revisions to the Rockville zoning ordinance and map.

The final discussion and instruction to staff from the Mayor and Council occurred on Nov. 17. The ordinance is expected to be introduced on Dec. 8 and adopted on Dec. 15.

Rockville's zoning ordinance regulates development on all properties in Rockville, including building height, setbacks and accessory structures on residential property, permitted land uses, and the size and scale of new development. Rockville's zoning ordinance has not been

fully revised since 1975.

Rockville began the process of reviewing and rewriting its 30-year-old zoning ordinance in 2005. Included in that process was intensive work by a citizen committee, extensive public comment and review, outreach to the residential and business communities, outreach at civic and homeowner association meetings, two public hearings and multiple work sessions before the Planning Commission and Mayor and Council.

Additional information, including a full copy of the draft ordinance and proposed zoning map, is available at www.rockvillemd.gov/zoning. **RR**



(Left to right) Councilmembers Piotr Gajewski and Phyllis Marcuccio, Rocky Twyman, Mayor Susan R. Hoffmann, Councilmembers John Britton and Anne M. Robbins.

City Honors Rocky Twyman

Rockville resident Rocky Twyman was honored at a recent Mayor and Council meeting for his efforts to increase the minority participation in the National Bone Marrow Registry.

Twyman started a national campaign to get more African Americans to register as bone marrow donors. Twyman knows the importance because of both a friend and his nephew's illness.

He has hosted several bone marrow drives and added more than 14,000 minorities to the donor list in the past 15 years.

Twyman was recognized on March 28 by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, made up of the 109 living recipients of the government's highest military honor, as Maryland's finalist to receive the Above and Beyond citizen honor. **RR**

Legacy at Lincoln Park Earns National Recognition Public-Private Partnership Replaces Public Housing with Homeownership

More than a decade ago, Rockville Housing Enterprises envisioned a partnership with a private developer to bolster the historic Lincoln Park community by closing a troubled public housing complex. Last month that project, touted as the nation's first privately financed public housing redevelopment, was recognized as one of the country's most innovative and effective affordable-housing initiatives.

In July 2005 the Lincoln Terrace apartments, built in 1958, were demolished to make way for Legacy at Lincoln Park, a community of 52 townhomes and seven single-family houses to be sold to residents with a range of household incomes, including those with low incomes.

The project, which welcomed its first residents a little more than a year ago, is one of three in the nation recognized by the Urban Land Institute's Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing – in part for the innovation of the public-private partnership between RHE, the city's public housing authority and developer Urban Atlantic Development to redevelop a conventional public housing project into a mixed-income community.

Legacy at Lincoln Park, which was undertaken with the support of the Lincoln Park Citizens Association, serves residents earning between 60 percent and 120 percent of the area median income of \$99,000. The federal Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program was used to assist several of the new owners with their mortgages. Eight of the units were sold through the City's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit program, and many of the households with incomes in the low-moderate range received soft second

mortgages through RHE. About a dozen homes remain to be sold.

City planning staff worked closely with RHE and the developer to create a new owner-occupied community that would be an asset to the neighborhood. The City also agreed to allow its interest in the 5.4 acres of land used for the project to be used as equity to secure the predevelopment and construction financing. Such projects are typically financed with federal grants, but Legacy at Lincoln Park used only private money.

The project was honored last month at the ULI fall meeting in Miami, Fla., with the first annual J. Ronald Terwilliger Workforce Housing Models of Excellence Awards recognizing exemplary developments that meet workforce housing needs in high-cost communities. Thirty-four projects from across the country were considered for the award.

"I congratulate the winners of the Models of Excellence Awards," said J. Ronald Terwilliger, chairman and CEO of Trammell Crow Residential and founder of the ULI Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing. "Each of the winning projects is an excellent example of how the public and private sectors can work together to help solve the growing crisis of the lack of availability of workforce housing. Many of the best practices can be replicated in other high-cost areas."

At a groundbreaking for Legacy at Lincoln Park in July 2005, Wilma Bell, whose family has lived in Lincoln Park for four generations, welcomed the redevelopment of Lincoln Terrace, saying the project would allow her community's families the "dream of homeownership" and of "raising a family in a safe environment." **RR**



Mayor
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
John B. Britton



Councilmember
Piotr Gajewski



Councilmember
Phyllis Marcuccio



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on Rockville Channel 11, and are available on streaming video at www.rockvillemd.gov. Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at General Session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- Nov. 24 (Mon.), Citizens Forum, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 (Mon.), Citizens Forum, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 (Mon.), Citizens Forum, 7 p.m.

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents for drop-in discussions from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk Office is appreciated as drop in times are subject to change. Call 240-314-8280.

In addition to Mayor Hoffmann, the Councilmember scheduled for December is:

- Dec. 15 (Mon.) Piotr Gajewski

Boards & Commission Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for:

- Animal Matters Board (one)
- Board of Appeals (one)
- Commission on the Environment (one)
- Compensation Commission (two)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs (three)
- Personnel Appeals Board (one)
- Retirement Board (one)
- Rockville Economic Development (three)
- Rockville Seniors, Inc. (one)
- Rockville Sister City (one)
- Sign Review Board (one)

For more information, call the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280 or go to www.rockvillemd.gov

Mayor and Council to Review Testimony on Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan in December, Worksession Will Follow

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to review testimony received on the Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan at their meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 8. They will also establish a timeline to discuss the plan, with worksessions expected to be held early next year.

A public hearing was held on the plan on Oct. 13 and the

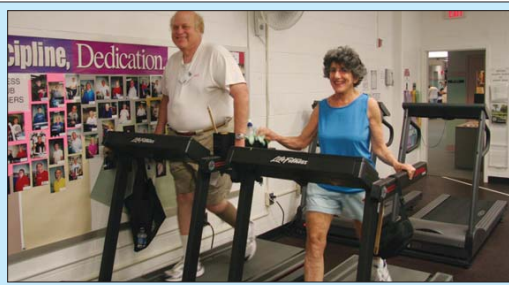
public record was held open until Oct. 31.

The Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan covers City planning areas 7 (Twinbrook Forest and Northeast Rockville) and 8 (Twinbrook) in the southeastern section of Rockville. The area is bounded by the CSX and Metro railroad tracks to the southwest, First

Street and Norbeck Road to the northwest and the City's eastern boundary along Rock Creek Park and Twinbrook Parkway. Veirs Mill Road bisects the area.

Copies of the Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan are available on the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan/twinbrook/index.html. Hard copies can be

obtained at the Department of Community Planning and Development Services at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. More detailed information can be found at Rockville City Hall or by contacting Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning, or Ann Wallas, planner, at 240-314-8200. **RR**



Demand for fitness facilities at the Senior Center is increasing.

Work Begins to Study Possible Senior Fitness Center Expansion

Rockville residents, Senior Center users and City staff are working together to determine the feasibility of expanding the fitness room at the Rockville Senior Center and adding a second entrance to the center from Gude Drive.

A condition of the second entrance study was that no through traffic would be allowed.

The fitness room, currently 1,315 square feet is experiencing an increased user demand. In 2002, there were just under 3,100 visits to the fitness room and six years later in 2008, that number had grown to 13,000 visits.

"The senior population is growing and use of the fitness facility is already over capacity," said Deputy City Manager Catherine Tuck Parrish, who is a member of the group. Some seniors are using the fitness center as part of their active, healthy lifestyle and others are using it for rehabilitation from surgery or an injury."

The Senior Center Improvements Study Group, comprising Woodley Gardens residents, Senior Center users, City staff and Virginia design firm Shaffer, Wilson, Sarver & Gray, PC, will seek input from the Senior Center's neighborhood, Woodley Gardens, and the greater Rockville community and meet regularly to form a recommendation to present to the city manager and then to the Mayor and Council, who will

decide on funding and final plan approval.

In Montgomery County, the number of seniors increased 86 percent between 1980 and 2000, and is expected to increase another 65 percent by 2020, according to U.S. census data.

The City's feasibility study, which is expected to be completed in February, will evaluate all aspects of expanding the fitness center, including review of the site, traffic, parking, utilities, stormwater management and forestry.

It will also review the possibility of adding a second entrance to the center from Gude Drive. That review will look at traffic and entrance alignment options.

The project has been planned in the Rockville Capital Improvements Program (CIP) as part of ongoing efforts to improve the Senior Center. The study and expansion have been partially funded through grants and bond bills. No funding has been secured or approved for a second entrance. For more information, call Betsy Thompson, superintendent of recreation, at 240-314-8627. **RR**

Two open houses will be held in December to give tours of the Senior Center, discuss the project and solicit feedback on it.

- Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m.

Senior Center Improvements Study Group

The Senior Center Improvements Study Group comprises members from Woodley Gardens Civic Association, Rockville Senior Center, City staff and a consulting firm. The group is expected to meet up to twice a month for six to 12 months.

- Doug Bly, Senior Citizens Commission member
- George Galasso, Rockville Seniors, Inc., president
- Burt Hall, Director for Recreation and Parks
- Pete McGinnity, Woodley

Gardens Civic Association

- Jim Reschovsky, Woodley Gardens Civic Association, president
- Davon Titmas, Woodley Gardens Civic Association member
- Betsy Thompson, Superintendent of Recreation
- Catherine Tuck Parrish, Deputy City Manager
- Mary Jane Walling, fitness room user
- Alexis McKenzie, Senior Citizens Services Manager

Parking Changes Reduce Taxpayer Burden

The Mayor and Council approved a proposal at their Nov. 3 meeting to reduce the taxpayer subsidy of the City's Parking Fund and move toward having it be self-supporting.

The measure is effective Monday, May 4, and will expand the days and hours for paid parking at Town Center garages and meters to include weekdays, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., and Saturdays, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

Currently, parking at the on-street meters and in Town Center garages is free after 7 p.m. weekdays, and all day on weekends and City holidays. Payment of \$1 per hour is required 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Privately-owned garages and lots have varying rates.

All of Rockville's parking-related costs and revenues are accounted for in the City's Parking Fund and are separate from the taxpayer-funded General Fund. The Parking Fund is an Enterprise

Fund and is required by the City's fiscal policies to be self-supporting. This means that revenue from parking fees and fines must cover all of the costs associated with the Town Center garages, including operation costs and debt payments on the construction loans.

Currently the Town Center garages are generating approximately \$1.2 million per year while they cost approximately \$2.4 million per year. As a result, the City must transfer money from the General Fund to the Parking Fund to cover the shortfall. The General Fund subsidy of the Parking Fund has resulted in Rockville taxpayers supporting almost 40 percent of the garages' operating costs, rather than the garage users.

In order to place most of the costs of the garages on the users, the number of hours per week there is a charge for parking in Town Center will increase in May from 60 hours to 90 hours. The City estimates it will generate more

than \$530,000 in annual parking revenues, which will significantly reduce the current subsidy from the budget's General Fund.

The Mayor and Council approved in October several other changes to parking rates and hours in Rockville.

Other approved changes:

- reduction in the cost of a monthly Town Center garage pass from \$85 to \$75 effective Nov. 1;
- expansion of the hours allowed for Town Center garage parking from four to unlimited except on the P1 level in the 355 Garage and the street level of the North Washington Street Garage effective Nov. 1; and
- an increase in the rates for on-street meters near the Twinbrook Metro from 25 cents to 50 cents per hour effective Monday, Dec. 1.

For information about parking in Rockville go to www.rockvillemd.gov/parking/index.html. **RR**

City Projects UPDATE

The Mayor and Council receive quarterly reports on projects that are in progress in the City of Rockville. The list is not comprehensive, but highlights larger projects.

Recreation and Parks GENERAL PROJECTS

■ Historic Rockville Post Office:

The Mayor and Council approved an architectural/engineering design contract to Wheeler Goodman Masek of Annapolis for the renovation and addition of the historic Rockville Post Office that will become the new Rockville Police Department headquarters. Work on design will continue through next June.

■ **Thomas Farm Community Center:** Construction is progressing and is expected to be completed in mid-January.

■ **Croydon Creek Nature Center:** Work is under way to create a permanent environment exhibit. Construction of the classroom and exhibit space is expected to begin next year. Staff is working to develop exhibits that focus on Croydon Creek, Rock Creek watershed and the Chesapeake Bay.

Public Works STORMWATER AND STREAM IMPROVEMENTS

■ **College Gardens Park and Pond:** Contract approval from the Mayor and Council for the College Gardens Park and Pond project was expected in November. Construction is expected to begin in January and be complete next August.

Improvements include a new stormwater management pond and various park improvements, including a new park shelter, path resurfacing and the relocation and expansion of the basketball courts. There will also be a stream restoration downstream of Princeton Place, located below College Gardens Park.

TRANSPORTATION

■ **Intersection Inventory:** An inventory of the City's 115 intersections with traffic signals will start in January to assess the effectiveness of pedestrian safety with the current traffic control devices, including signs, crosswalks and countdown timers. There will also be an inventory at several intersections near schools, Metro stations and shopping centers.

The goal is to be able to provide recommendations for improvements if necessary.

■ **Sidewalks:** Two sidewalk projects have been completed and a third is nearing completion.

The first project, which included two segments, connected the sidewalk on Taft Street between E. Gude Drive and First Street and connected sidewalk on First Street from Taft Street to the end.

The second completed project connected sidewalk on E. Gude Drive between Rothgeb Drive and Southlawn Lane.

The third project is Mannakee Street between Smallwood Road and Martins Lane.

UTILITIES

■ Water Line/Watermain

Replacement: Water line replacements are under way on Lewis Avenue, including segments of Highwood Road and Matthews Drive.

Construction on the watermain on Rockville Pike and Park Road began in September.

Work will begin on the next phase of water line replacements on North Homers Lane, Lincoln Street, Reading Terrace and Thorndon Road in March. Survey and design work on those streets has begun.

■ Water meter Replacement

Project: Phase I of the residential water meter replacement program has started. The contractor has installed about 95 percent of the 5,000 meters scheduled for replacement as part of Phase I in the following neighborhoods: Carter Hill, Fallsbend, Fallsmead, Falls Wood, Glenora Hills, Great Pines, Griffith Oaks, Hungerford, Jefferson Square, Markwood, New Mark Commons, Orchard Ridge, Potomac Woods, Regents Square, Rockshire, Rose Hill, Saddlebrook, Twinbrook, West End, Woodley Gardens, Woodley Gardens West.

The Department of Public Works will finish the remaining water meter replacements for this phase. The contractor, Vanguard Utility Service, will return by early summer to conduct phase II of the residential water meter replacement program. **RR**

Rockville Ready for Winter Weather

Although residents are still focusing efforts on keeping their lawns free of falling leaves, winter is just a month away and falling snow will present new demands. But Rockville's Public Works staff is prepared.

Rockville has 28 snowplow trucks with spreaders and 21 spreader trucks, a salt dome with a capacity for 2,400 tons of salt, which has already been delivered, three backhoes for heavy snowstorms and two front-end loaders. The City maintains 24 plow routes and 20 salt routes.

In addition to the equipment, Public Works staff has been trained, routes assigned, dry-runs taken and the on-call list developed.

"We are already ready," said Craig Simoneau, director of Public Works.

The City also has a monitored temperature site located in the road at Wootton Parkway and Tower Oaks Boulevard, where it determines the temperature of the road, so crews know when the road temperature is at freezing. The system is monitored through a customized weather service that provides weather predictions, as well as treatment recommendations and options.

The City Recreation and Parks Department also has snow removal equipment and clears snow at City facilities and on shared-use paths that are not near residents' homes, such as



Rockville has 28 snowplows to clear City roads during a storm.

portions of the Millennium Trail and the Friendship Bridge.

In a snow emergency, which the City Manager will declare following a significant deep snowfall, efforts will focus on clearing streets.

For residents, parking vehicles in garages or driveways, or on the even-numbered side of the street helps crews to clear the streets. After the even-numbered side is plowed, residents should move their cars to the opposite side of the street.

During a snow or ice storm, residents and business owners also have the responsibility to clear the snow from sidewalks, steps, driveways and parking spaces that they own and that are for public use within 24 or 48 hours, depending on the accumulation.

"Clearing snow is a team effort," Simoneau said. "We generally do the streets and major trails, and residents and businesses do the sidewalks in front of their property; and together

we get it done."

Rockville also has an inclement weather hotline to help residents learn about what meetings or programs have been canceled, and what facilities are closed. Call 240-314-5020.

There are also opportunities to volunteer when others who may not be able to clear snow need some help. Many seniors depend on the help of volunteers. If you can help, call the Senior Center and center officials will work to pair you with a senior in need of help in your neighborhood. Call 240-314-8810.

Rockville announces snow emergencies through the Rockville Web site, www.rockvillemd.gov, Rockville Channel and local media. The City Web site, <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/snow.html>, also guides residents on all of the Rockville snow ordinance, shoveling and inclement weather updates. **RR**

Meeting Outlines Safety Options for Pedestrians on Twinbrook Parkway

A meeting to discuss options for improving pedestrian safety along Twinbrook Parkway will be held in December, but even before then Rockville responded to a petition for increasing safety with new road markings.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Meadow Hall Elementary School, 951 Twinbrook Parkway. Rockville transportation staff will outline options and recommendations for improving pedestrian safety.

Meanwhile, the City just completed a project in which it added edge lines – white pavement markings that delineate the traffic lane from street parking

– between Veirs Mill Road and Baltimore Road.

The options City staff will outline for residents include a traffic circle on Twinbrook Parkway and Linthicum Street and a road narrowing on Twinbrook Parkway at Pinneberg Avenue – the two intersections residents expressed concerns about. Both projects would slow traffic and the road-narrowing project would reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians.

The Traffic and Transportation Division has outlined concept plans of the recommendations to share with residents. Staff hopes to move forward with the projects by next summer. **RR**

Flashing Lights Signal Drivers to Watch for Pedestrians

Rockville is expected to install in December rapid flashing lights at two heavily used pedestrian intersections in the City.

The Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons, as they are officially named, provide quick flashing lights under already posted crosswalk signs. The lights are activated once a pedestrian pushes the crosswalk button. The lights alert drivers that pedestrians are entering or in the crosswalk. The flashing beacons are only being installed at intersections that do not have a signal or a stop sign.

The two intersections that will receive the flashing beacons are Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street and W. Edmonston Drive at the Woodmont Shopping Center and Apartments.

The flashing beacons cost \$18,000 each and received approval from the Federal Highway Administration.

"It's good to improve pedestrian safety," said Emad Elshafei, chief of Traffic and Transportation. "The City is willing to experiment with new innovation and new technologies in this area." **RR**

Winter Weather Policies Help Keep Residents Moving, Safe

The City Manager may invoke a snow emergency.

Snow Emergency Parking Ordinance

- The City may remove or impound cars that are not parked properly
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the street as one enters the cul-de-sac or court
- No parking is allowed in the bulb of the cul-de-sac or court
- After the snowfall ends and the odd-numbered side of the street is cleared,

vehicles must be moved to the odd-numbered side to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side

- A fine of \$100 for a snow emergency parking violation will be incurred

For more information, call the Public Works Department at 240-314-8500.

Snow Shoveling

The Snow Ordinance requires that snow must be removed from all sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and the paved right-of-way sidewalk immediately fronting or abutting a property. This includes access ramps and curb cuts designed for use by people with disabilities.

Snow and ice removal must occur within 24 hours if the snowfall is less than 3 inches and within 48 hours if it is more than 3 inches. Fines may be imposed if the ordinance is not followed.

Call 240-314-8330 for more information.

Rockville Inclement Weather Updates

The City of Rockville announces inclement weather status through several outlets.

To find out whether a City meeting or recreation program has been canceled due to the winter weather, check the City's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov), Rockville Channel 11 and the following radio and television stations for Rockville City government closings and delays:

- Radio: WTOP (1500 AM, 820 AM and 107.7 FM); WARW (94.7 FM); WRQX (107.3 FM); WFRE (99.9 FM and 930 AM).
- TV: WRC-TV (NBC Channel 4); WTTG-Fox TV (Channel 5); WJLA-TV (ABC Channel 7 and News Channel 8); and WUSA-TV (CBS Channel 9).

The Rockville Recreation Inclement Weather hotline number is 240-314-5020. **RR**

Projects in the Pipeline

The City of Rockville has numerous projects that will come before various boards, commissions and the Mayor and Council in December. Each are in a different phase of review.

Highlights:

- Review for a 12,371-square-foot addition to an existing church, including parking lot modifications on Baltimore Road – Planning Commission, Dec. 3.
- Hearing on the variance from the 42-inch fence height limita-

tion in the front yard in order to retain a 57-inch high fence on Roxboro Road – Board of Appeals, Dec. 6.

- Request to construct a branch bank with customer drive through facilities, along with a drug store with customer drive through, Wootton Crossing – Planning Commission, Dec. 17.

To learn more about these and other projects being reviewed, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/government/cpds.htm. **RR**

Job Opportunities With the City

Job Highlights:

- Temporary Production Assistant: Operates professional television production equipment in studio and field production situations. Equipment includes cameras, VTRs, character generator, audio board, microphones, lights and switcher.

- Civil Engineer I – Traffic and Transportation: Performs difficult work in the investigation, design and construction of municipal traffic, transportation and other projects.

To learn more about these and other position, go to www.rockvillemd.gov. **RR**



Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park hosts three holiday open houses in December.

Rockville Opens Its Doors for the Holidays at Glenview Mansion

Rockville's Glenview Mansion will once again spend Sundays in December helping visitors get in the holiday spirit with a series of open houses at the historic City venue.

The picturesque 19th-century home will be transformed into a holiday showcase and a variety of theme entertainment and activities will welcome visitors in search of some seasonal festivity. All of the events run from 1-4 p.m.

- The first open house on Dec. 7 is themed "Art, Music and Holiday Cheer." The Rockville Art League opens its holiday show with a reception and a chance to meet the artists. Musical performances will begin

at 1:15 p.m. with the Jazz Ambassadors from Winston Churchill High School followed by The Rockville Singers and The Heavenly Handbells of Trinity Lutheran Church.

- Dec. 14 is titled "Children's Activities, Art and Song" and features visits from Santa, Mrs. Claus, Frosty and Rudolph. There will also be a variety of craft activities for children throughout the afternoon. Entertainment will begin at 1:15 p.m. with Home School Talents followed by the Richard Montgomery Madrigal and Heart of Maryland Chorus Sweet Adelines.
- Dec. 21 brings "Sparkle,

Jazz and Joy" as The Encore Singers kick things off at 1:15 p.m. followed by the Watkins Mill High School Chamber Singers and the Walter Johnson Jazz Combo.

In addition, the Mansion will be open for viewing on Dec. 28, from 1-4 pm. Glenview Mansion is located within Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

All of the Glenview open houses are free and open to the public. To help visitors share the holiday spirit, there will be a collection for the City of Rockville Holiday Drive during the open houses. Retail gift cards and cash donations will be used to help individuals and families in need. **RR**

Get Ready to Welcome Rockville's Newest Community Center

The Thomas Farm Community Center, the City's first community center west of Interstate 270, is expected to open in January. The facility is currently under construction as one of the City's Capital Improvement Projects.

The 18,000-square-foot building is located on Falls Grove Drive at the intersection of West Montgomery Avenue. The community center is next to Falls Grove Park and the Millennium Trail.

Thomas Farm Community Center will serve Rockville residents with diverse, interesting and high-quality recreational and leisure opportunities in a safe and modern facility.

Amenities include:

- Game room, including video games, ping pong table and computers.

- Full-size gymnasium suitable for basketball, volleyball, badminton, classes and special events.
- Two multi-purpose rooms with a kitchenette and outdoor patio.
- Fitness center with cardio and strength equipment.
- Restrooms, locker rooms and showers.
- Large gallery and reception area, featuring artwork and computers with Internet access.

The center will also be home to a wide array of programs and classes. Look at Rockville's Winter Recreation Guide or go to www.rockvillemd.gov for a schedule of classes and programs.

For additional information on the center e-mail thomasfarm@rockvillemd.gov or go to www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm. **RR**



Thomas Farm Community Center, pictured under construction, is expected to welcome residents and visitors in January.

December Highlights in Rockville

Don't Miss Out on Great Programs Taking Place This Month

Registration Begins Dec. 11 for Winter Recreation Classes in City

Winter is just about upon us, and there are plenty of winter programs in Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department.

The Winter 2009 Recreation Guide will be mailed to residents Dec. 1. Registration for winter activities begins Dec. 11 for residents and Dec. 18 for non-residents.

For more information or to register for programs, contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at 240-314-8620 or go to www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

'The Nutcracker' Opens Dec. 6

Under the direction of Claudia Mangan, the Rockville Civic Ballet, comprising 75 adult, teen and children dancers, will perform "The Nutcracker" as it has been since 1975. The annual production has become a holiday tradition for the Rockville community. The artistic production includes detailed scenery and costumes.

Shows will be held at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13, and at 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7 and 14, at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Tickets cost \$14, adults; \$10, children (age 12 and younger) and seniors (age 60 and older). Group rates are available at \$13.50 each for seven or more adult tickets, and \$9.50 each for 10 or more children/senior citizens tickets. Call 240-314-8690.

Holiday Bazaar Offers Plenty of Shopping Options

The Rockville Senior Center Holiday Bazaar allows residents to shop for handmade crafts, plants, computers, books and baked goods in the Thrift Shop and Gift Shop. The Carnation Café will also be open. All proceeds, including from a raffle, benefit the Senior Center.

The holiday bazaar will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8821 for more information.

Beall Dawson House Gives a Look Back at the Season

The Beall Dawson House, an historic 19th-century federal-style home, will transform to bring "An 1890's Christmas" to the community and will also host a holiday fete in December.

From Dec. 2 to Jan. 4, the Beall Dawson House, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Historical Society, will bring the classic image of Christmas, with elaborate greens and over-the-top decorations pulled from pictures of decorated homes during the 1890s. The Montgomery County Historical Society has many holiday decorations, cards and toys from the era. Tours will conclude

with hot cider and homemade cookies. Tours of the home are held noon-4p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission to

the house is \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and children.

The holiday fete will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, and will feature food and music. The Beall Dawson House will be adorned with holiday decorations. A

silent auction will also be held. Tickets are \$20 person or \$35 for two people. Pre-paid reservations are required.

The Beall Dawson House is located at 103 W. Montgomery Ave. Call 301-340-2825 for information. **RR**



Beall-Dawson House

In Brief

Sign Up for Updates on the District Courthouse

Work to demolish the former Rockville Library and build a new Maryland District Courthouse is under way, and the City wants to help you stay informed about what is going on with the state project.

Residents, workers and visitors of Rockville can stay informed throughout the demolition process in two ways:

- Sign up to receive e-mails periodically from the City with news and updates about the project
- Participate on an advisory group that will help City staff communicate effectively with neighbors

To sign up for the e-mail alerts, participate in the advisory group or have questions answered, contact Rocio Estrada, Neighborhood Resources

Coordinator, restrada@rockvillemd.gov.

Demolition at the site should be completed in February. The new 94,500-square-foot courthouse is expected to be completed in the next two years, by October 2010.

The City is working with the state to minimize construction impacts to Rockville residents by prohibiting construction and contractor vehicles from traveling or parking on neighborhood streets, and by requiring the contractor to maintain access to City Hall and Vinson Street.

CALL 240-314-8345 FOR INFO

Learn the Rockville Holiday Recycling and Refuse Schedule

With the holidays just about here, it's a good time to understand Rockville's recycling and refuse collection schedule. The City does not collect recycling or refuse on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27; Christmas

Day, Thursday, Dec. 25; or New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1.

Residents in phase 1 of the new once-per-week semi-automated recycling and refuse program are not affected by the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

Residents who still have twice-per-week collection and whose collection falls on the Thursday holidays, should hold their recycling and refuse until the next regularly scheduled collection day.

A special recycling- and yard waste-only collection will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 31, for residents with a Thursday recycling collection schedule.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse for information.

CALL 240-314-8568 FOR INFO

Community Input Sought on Review of Comprehensive Master Plan

A review of the Rockville Comprehensive Master Plan,

which directs development and conservation activities, has started.

Outreach to the community and the various City boards and commissions began in August. The Mayor and Council received a briefing on the process at the Sept. 8 meeting. The Planning Commission is expected to discuss the review this winter.

The zoning ordinance and master plan work in concert with one another. The Comprehensive Master Plan lays out a broad vision for the City, including future land uses, and the zoning ordinance implements that vision.

The City is divided into 18 planning areas. It also has sections that cover citywide subject areas, including residential neighborhoods, economic development, non-residential areas, historic preservation, housing, recreation, parks and open space, transportation, and community appearance and design. The City wants residents to give their input on the review.

To learn more about the Comprehensive Master Plan and submit comments go to www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan/masterplan-review.html, or contact Ann Wallas.

CALL 240-314-8200 FOR INFO

Help the Summer Playground Program and Rockville Youth Recreation Fund

The Elwood Smith Park Council will sponsor its annual poinsettia and balsam wreath sale in which proceeds go to enrich the Summer Playground Program and the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund.

Pre-order poinsettias and balsam wreaths by Friday, Dec. 5, and pick up orders from 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Elwood Smith Community Center, 601 Harrington Road. Call the number below to place orders and for more information.

CALL 301-340-7049 FOR INFO

TOWN SQUARE

4 Holiday Open House Rockville Town Square hosts a Holiday Open House, featuring music, refreshments, a visit from Santa at 6:30 p.m. and free photos with him from 7-9 p.m., free horse and carriage rides, and in-store specials. 6:30-9 p.m. Call 703-690-2329.

6 Winter Book Sale Friends of the Library, Rockville Chapter, will host a book sale with hundreds of books to choose from at the Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Friends of the Library, Rockville Chapter, will receive a free book at the sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

7 Winter Wonderland Bring the family to The Rooftop and VisArts at Rockville, and be entertained by Sugarplum Fairies and Snow Kings and Queens, sip hot chocolate and eat holiday treats. Children can paint gingerbread men, make holiday cards and participate in other holiday activities at VisArts. Enjoy festive music on The Rooftop and have a family photo taken with Santa Claus. 2-5 p.m.; \$5 per person. Proceeds benefit Community Ministries of Rockville. For more information, e-mail info@rockvillerooftop.com or galleriassist@visartscenter.org.

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Nov. 23 Americana Concert Rockville Concert Band performs with guest conductor Rob Putt. 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Call 240-314-8681. FREE.

6,7,13,14 "The Nutcracker" Rockville Civic Ballet performs the holiday classic of Clara taking a magical journey from her parent's Victorian Christmas party to the enchanted land of Sugar Plum Fairy. Shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13; 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7 and 14. Tickets \$14, adults; \$10 seniors (age 60 and older) and students (age 12 and under). Group rate tickets \$13.50, seven or more adults; \$9.50, 10 or more seniors. Call the Box Office at 240-314-8690 from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday for tickets or go to www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

december calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

20 Winter Concerts Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra performs a variety of classical music selections. Shows at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$12.50, adult and \$20, both shows; \$5, child (age 5-18) and \$8, both shows. Call the Box Office at 240-314-8690 from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or go to www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

21 Holiday Concert Rockville Concert Band performs at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 3 p.m.; no tickets required. FREE.

21 Holiday Concert Rockville Chorus performs at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 7:30 p.m.; no tickets required. FREE.

NATURE & OUTDOOR All programs held at Croydon Creek Nature Center, Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road, unless otherwise noted. Registration required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

6 Pinecone Wreath-making Come to the Nature Center to learn how to make a beautiful and long-lasting wreath to welcome people to your home. All necessary materials are provided. An adult must accompany children under 12. Register by Nov. 21. 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. Ages 10-over. \$31 RES/\$38 NR.

7 Map and Compass Skills Whether you are going hiking, boating, fishing or hunting, you should always know how to get to where you want to go – and more importantly, how to return. This half-day program will teach you the basics of how to read a map and use a compass. Then refine your skills as we hike around the park. Cost includes equipment and instruction. Register by 12/1. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Ages 12-over. \$19 RES/\$24 NR.

10 Jr. Naturalist Program-Winter Adaptations Explore the strategies and adaptations that animals use to survive the winter months in Maryland. 4-5 p.m.; ages 10-14; \$12 RES/\$14 NR.

13 Hike the Catotocins This circuit hike in the Catotocin National Park covers nine miles of rocky and hilly terrain. Take the Cliff Trail, climb the Old Misery Trail to Cat Rock and view Huntington Lake as you traverse the Lower Trail. Warm up with a hot cocoa stop at the Cozy Inn on the trip home. Cost includes transportation and leadership. Register by Dec. 1. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; ages 10-over; \$37 RES/\$46 NR.

18 Tiny Tot Walk: Feathers, Fur and Fun Through stories, hands-on activities and crafts, discover more about the different body coverings of different animals. Dress for the weather. 10:30-11:15 a.m.; ages 2-3 1/2; \$6 RES/\$7 NR.

18 Tyke Hike: Fabulous Feathers & Fancy Fur Through stories, hands-on activities and a craft, learn about why birds have feathers and mammals have fur. Dress for the weather. 1-2 p.m.; ages 3 1/2-6; \$6 RES/\$7 NR.

30 Winter Nature Fun Spend the day at the Nature Center making birdfeeders, learning about animal tracks, hiking in the forest preserve and catching up with Croydon Creek's critters. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Register by Dec. 15. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; ages 7-12; \$48 RES/\$60 NR.

SENIORS

All programs are held at Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Call 240-314-8800.

2 Scanners Learn how to use the flatbed scanner that allows you to place a full piece of paper, book, magazine, photo or any other object onto the scanner and have the capability to scan the object. 9:30 a.m.-noon; \$6M/\$8R/\$12NR.

3 Clarify Computer Concepts Beginner computer class that follows the basic introductory class. 10 a.m.-noon; \$5M/\$7R/\$10NR.

3 December Birthday Party Entertainment by the Dale Jarrett Trio. Sponsored by Triple F Senior Club and John Wharen. Register by Nov. 26. 1:30-3 p.m.; freeM/\$2NR.

4 Strength Training Basics 1-2 p.m.; \$7M/\$9R/\$10NM.

8 Backing Up Your Computer Learn when and how to back up your computer system and what type of backup media is best. 10a.m.-noon; \$5M/\$7R/\$10NR.

8 Mistletoe and Holly Party Enjoy a wonderful holiday party celebrating the season with tunes made popular by Dean Martin, Brenda Lee, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and others. Featuring the vocal talents of Frank and Trish Currier. Light refreshments served. Register by Dec. 3. 1:30-3 p.m.; \$5M/ \$7R/ \$9NR.

8,10,15 Digital Photo Editing Learn how to correct composition, color quality, resolution, contrast, brightness, hue, content and the use of layers. Synchronize your monitor with your printer for perfect prints. 1-3 p.m.; \$3 manual fee; \$45M/\$56R/\$67NR.

11 Pain Management Learn how to treat pain for chronic conditions with medications and non-pharmacological techniques. 1-2p.m.; FREE

12 Line Dance Social Celebrate our love for country line dancing and get ready to have a rip roarin', foot stompin', good time. No previous experience or partner is necessary. Instructions will be given. Enjoy light refreshments while you dance the afternoon away. 2-3:30 p.m.

15 SKYPE/Webcams Free telephone calls anywhere in the world to anyone on your call list. Learn how to set up this high quality telephone service on your computer. 10 a.m.-noon; FREE.

18 Young In Heart Holiday Luncheon in the Carnation Room. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

3 Rockville Bike Advisory Committee 7:15 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.

3,17 Planning Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

4 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

6 Board of Appeals 9:30 a.m.

10 Sister City Corporation 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

9 Commission on the Environment 7:30 p.m.

9 Human Services Advisory Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of the month.

9 Landlord/Tenant Affairs Commission 6 p.m.

10 Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

16 Rockville Seniors, Inc. 1 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Meets the third Tuesday of the month.

17 Rockville Housing Enterprises 6:30 p.m., 621-A Southlawn Lane. Meets the third Wednesday of the month.

18 Senior Citizens Commission 10 a.m. to noon, Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

18 Historic District Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

23 Traffic and Transportation Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Former Church Parsonage Restored for Community Use

After nearly 10 years of working to rebuild and rehabilitate the historic parsonage at Jerusalem Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church on Wood Lane in Rockville, efforts were completed in November.

The Rev. Jane E. Wood said the church plans to use the restored building for youth activities, church meetings, small worship services, AA meetings and a weekly event called "Jazz in the Sanctuary."

"The rehabilitation could not have been the success it has become without Mike Schwartzman, Greg Minkoff and the other members of the rehabilitation team," Wood said. "They have made good on their promise to 'make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.'"

On Feb. 14, 1999, Cordelia House, housed in the former church parsonage, was devastated by arson and ruled a complete loss. Cordelia House, a homeless women's shelter that had occupied the build-

Rockville Up Close: Jerusalem Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church



ing, was forced to find a new home and the Cordelia House became a boarded up eyesore on Rockville's West Montgomery Avenue Historic District.

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission worked with the church to rebuild the building. Church officials, who did not have the funds to repair the building, thought the only option was to demolish the building, but the commission sought other solutions to preserve it. The commission voted unanimously in favor of a rehabilitation plan and wrote a letter in support of the church for a Preservation Maryland grant. A \$5,000 grant was ultimately awarded.

Additionally, ROSS



Development and Investment (RDI) and DANAC Corporation, equity partners in the development of Rockville's Town Square, decided in 2007 they were able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the two-story frame and timber building with their development expertise and financial support. The companies invested more than a year assessing damage and implementing a rehabilitation plan that retains the historic integrity of the structure and addresses the current needs of the church.

Co-sponsors Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., Colonial Electric Co., Madison Mechanical, Inc., the law firm of Linnowes & Blocher and Zalco Realty also

contributed to the \$180,000 rehabilitation project.

Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church has a reputation dating back to the 1800s in the community of opening its doors to those in need, and promoting equality and self-sufficiency.

The church housed Rockville's black students after the Rockville Negro Elementary School burned in 1919. It was the site of graduation ceremonies for Rockville Colored School through the 1950s and it is where the Montgomery County chapter of the NAACP was founded in 1937.

The congregation harvested trees on a church-owned lot in Poolesville, cut them into lumber, and hauled them to Rockville to construct the pastor's dwelling adjacent to the church in 1912. Together these two buildings are among the few remaining church and parsonage units left in Montgomery County. The traditional vernacular style of the parsonage is the last example of this type of house in downtown Rockville. **RR**

Take a Journey to 'Where We Live' in Rockville

Rockville boasts many neighborhoods, each with its own character and unique flavor. This month on Rockville Channel 11, check out the first of a series of episodes profiling Rockville's many neighborhoods titled, Where We Live.

This documentary-style program introduces viewers to neighborhoods with insights from residents, and provides an historical analysis and look at the distinct features of each neighborhood.

During the month of December, Where We Live profiles East Rockville. Find out why residents think this neighborhood is so special.

Check Rockville 11's schedule for air dates and times. **RR**

Brochure on Parking Earns Recognition

Rockville Economic Development, Inc., (REDI) earned recognition for a brochure it produced to educate visitors about the new state-of-the-art parking system in Rockville Town Square.

REDI, whose mission is to strengthen and broaden the economic base of Rockville, received a 2008 Silver Inkwell Signature of Excellence award from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Washington/Baltimore.

The City's "economic arm" was recognized in the "Print-Brochure or Booklet" category for the brochure, which was produced with support from Van Eperen Public Relations and City staff, as well as sponsors Duball Rockville, LLC, and Federal Realty Investment Trust.

The award-winning parking brochure is available at www.rockvillemd.gov, in garages throughout Town Center, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., and at REDI's office, 95 Monroe St. **RR**

Rockville Channel 11 Continues Winning Streak Three Programs Recognized with National Communications Awards

Rockville Channel 11 was recognized in October by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) with three Savvy Awards. The competition recognizes outstanding local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing and citizen-government relationships.

Rockville Channel 11 received the following three awards:

- First Place for "Rebirth of a Town Center", a 30-minute program that takes viewers on a journey through the history of Rockville's downtown, including an on-location interview

with the City's community program development manager. Historical photos, video and innovative graphics give the program a documentary-style feel for the story of the downtown's successful rebirth.

- Silver Circle Award, Second Place for "Every 15 Minutes", a key-component of the City's annual campaign to reduce underage drinking and driving, this docu-drama production is thoughtful, powerful and emotionally driven in its approach to educate viewers about how lives are affected by impaired driving. By focusing on the

back-story of a victim, the program demonstrates that drunk driving affects more people than just the victims.

- Award of Excellence, Third Place for "Rockville's Pike Public Service Announcement (PSA)", Rockville Pike is a busy thoroughfare serving as a main route through Montgomery County. The City has launched a Rockville Pike upgrade plan known as Rockville's Pike: Envision a Great Place. It consists of public meetings, a design charrette and the creation of recommendations to improve the street and surrounding property.

Rockville's Pike PSA is a short production encouraging residents to get involved with the planning process.

"When we create television programs, our top goal is to effectively communicate information about Rockville city government to the residents and businesses of the community, and to do so in an interesting and professional way," said Doug Breisch, television and telecommunications manager.

Residents can view Rockville Channel 11 programming on cable or the Internet at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11/index.html. **RR**

| THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL DECEMBER PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| 12 Midnight until meeting ends | Planning Commission | Historic District Commission | Mayor & Council | Mayor & Council | Historic District Commission | Mayor & Council | Planning Commission |
| 6 a.m. | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report |
| 6:30 a.m. | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline |
| 7 a.m. | Where We Live | Best of CHR '08 | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Trash Talk | How To Shorts | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Rockville Rides |
| 7:30 a.m. | How To Shorts | Rockville Rides | Best of CHR '08 | Into the Blue | Best of CHR '08 | The Rockville Way | Into the Blue |
| 8 a.m. | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report |
| 8:30 a.m. | Historic District Commission | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Mayor & Council |
| 9 a.m. | Nutcracker | Nutcracker | Arts Sampler | Walk Safe | Nutcracker | Rockville Way | |
| 9:30 a.m. | | | The Rockville Way | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | | Best of CHR '08 | |
| 10 a.m. | | | Best of CHR '08 | Nutcracker | | How To Shorts | |
| 10:30 a.m. | | Best of CHR '08 | How To Shorts | | Trash Talk | Nutcracker | |
| 11 a.m. | | How To Shorts | Into the Blue | | NCTV | | Arts Sampler |
| 11:30 a.m. | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Arts Sampler | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Best of CHR '08 | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie |
| 12 noon | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report |
| 12:30 p.m. | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline |
| 1 p.m. until meeting ends | Mayor & Council | Planning Commission | Mayor & Council | Historic District Commission | Planning Commission | Mayor & Council | Planning Commission |
| 4 p.m. | Nutcracker | | Best of CHR '08 | How To Shorts | | Trash Talk | |
| 4:30 p.m. | | | Walk Safe | Best of CHR '08 | | Best of CHR '08 | |
| 5 p.m. | | Best of CHR '08 | How To Shorts | Where We Live | Rockville Rides | Where We Live | How To Shorts |
| 5:30 p.m. | Where We Live | Walk Safe | Arts Sampler | Trash Talk | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Walk Safe | Best of CHR '08 |
| 6 p.m. | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report |
| 6:30 p.m. | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline |
| 7 p.m. | Planning Commission | Mayor & Council | Where We Live | Planning Commission | How To Shorts | Mayor & Council | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie |
| 7:30 p.m. | | | Nutcracker | | Where We Live | | Nutcracker |
| 8 p.m. | | | | | Best of CHR '08 | | |
| 8:30 p.m. | | | | | Nutcracker | | |
| 9 p.m. | | | How To Shorts | | | | How To Shorts |
| 9:30 p.m. | | | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | | | | Where We Live |
| 10 p.m. | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report | City Hall Report |
| 10:30 p.m. | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline | Cityline |
| 11 p.m. | Best of CHR '08 | Where We Live | Arts Sampler | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Best of CHR '08 | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Best of CHR '08 |
| 11:30 p.m. | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | How To Shorts | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie | Best of CHR '08 | Where We Live | Best of CHR '08 | On Patrol: Recruit to Rookie |

Mayor
SUSAN R. HOFFMANN
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PIOTR GAJEWSKI,
PHYLLIS MARCUCCIO,
ANNE M. ROBBINS

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